

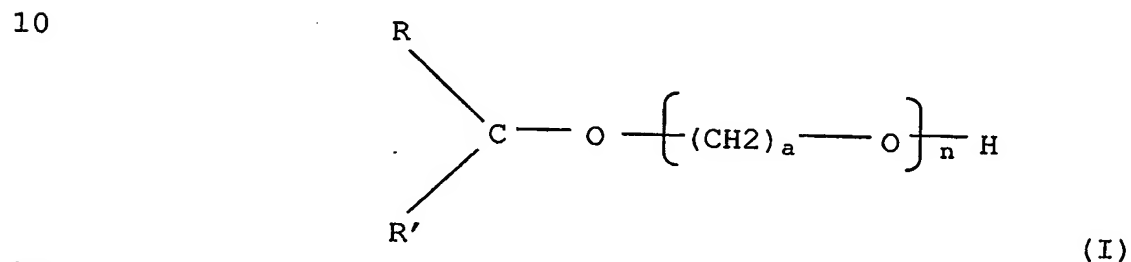
- 24 -

CLAIMS

1. A fabric conditioning composition comprising:

5 (a) an ester-linked quaternary ammonium fabric softening material; and

(b) a nonionic material represented by formula (I):-



15 wherein R and R' are independently selected from C₁ to C₁₅ optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, hydroxyalkyl and benzyl groups and the combined number of carbons in R and R' is from 7 to 16, n is from 1 to 9 and a is 2
20 or 3.

2. A composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein, in the nonionic material, n is from 2 to 8.

25 3. A composition as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein, in the nonionic material, n is from 2 to 6.

4. A composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein, in the nonionic material, n is from 2 to
30 5.

- 25 -

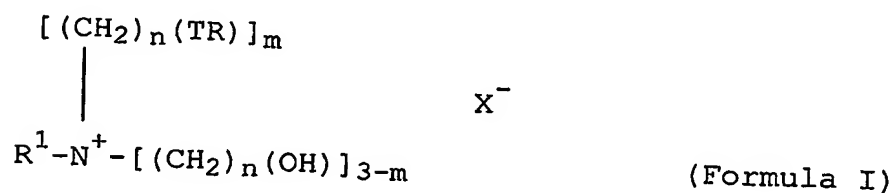
5. A composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein, in the nonionic material, n is from 2 to 4.

5 6. A composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein, in the nonionic material, the total number of carbons, R + R', is from 8 to 15.

10 7. A composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein, in the nonionic material, the total number of carbons, R + R', is from 10 to 15.

15 8. A composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein, in the nonionic material, the total number of carbons, R + R', is from 11 to 15.

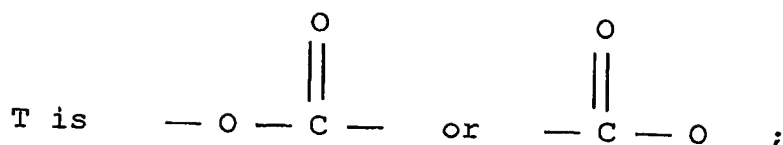
20 9. A composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the quaternary ammonium cationic softening material is represented by formula (I):



25 wherein each R is independently selected from a C₅₋₃₅ alkyl or alkenyl group, R¹ represents a C₁₋₄ alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group or a C₂₋₄ alkenyl group,

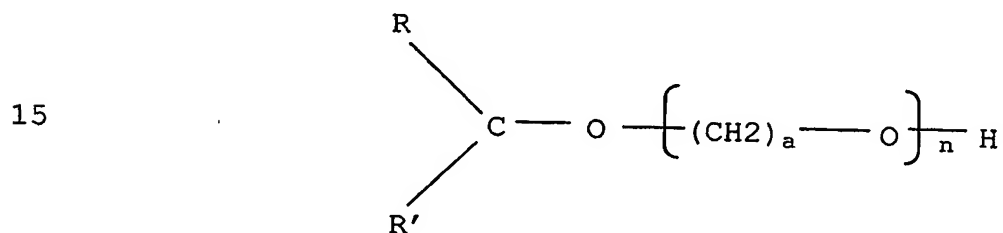
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- 26 -



5 n is 0 or an integer selected from 1 to 4, m is 1, 2 or 3 and denotes the number of moieties to which it refers that pend directly from the N atom, and X⁻ is an anionic group, such as halides or alkyl sulphates, e.g. chloride, methyl sulphate or ethyl sulphate.

10 10. The use of a nonionic material of formula:-



20 wherein R and R' are independently selected from C₁ to C₁₅ optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, hydroxyalkyl and benzyl groups and the combined number of carbons in R and R' is from 7 to 16, n is from 1 to 9 and a is 2 or 3

25 in a fabric conditioning composition to improve the elevated temperature storage stability of the fabric conditioning composition.